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United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Industrial Development Board

Twenty-fourth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING*

Held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna,
on Thursday, 21 June 2001, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

CONTENTS

Agenda item		*Paragraphs*
13	Recommendation of a candidate for the post of Director-General	1-12

* No summary record was issued for the private section of the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

RECOMMENDATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL (IDB.24/14, IDB.24/17)

1. **Mr. FIGUEROA** (Argentina) said that the nomination of Mr. Magariños for re-election as Director-General, submitted by the Argentine Government and endorsed by the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), reflected the view of many delegations from all five regional groups that he should be enabled to complete the mandate assigned to him under the Business Plan on the Future Role and Functions of UNIDO and to build on the undoubted success of the first stage of rationalization and restructuring, which he had led with skill and efficiency, intelligence and imagination, drawing on his technical expertise, depth of experience and youthful vigour. The Argentine Government understood Africa's aspiration to fill the post, in keeping with the principle of geographical rotation, a principle supported by Argentina as important. However, exceptions had been made to that principle in the past. Had his Government thought for a moment that a second term of office of the Argentine candidate might be prejudicial to the African region, it would have withdrawn the nomination. His country's abiding desire was to promote friendship and solidarity with the peoples of Africa and to see UNIDO fully assume its vital role in enabling a vast proportion of the world's population, those in developing countries and countries with emerging economies, to enjoy the quality of life to which they were entitled.

2. **Mr. YODA** (Burkina Faso) said that, while tribute should be paid to Mr. Magariños for having steered UNIDO through a period of harsh sacrifices and for his successful implementation of its reform, Africa regrettably saw the Organization now stagnating and becoming self-serving. The Heads of State and Government of Africa had accordingly decided to present a candidate for the post of Director-General who would bring a new vision, a new start and a new dynamism to UNIDO, an African candidate whose skill, charisma, experience and straightforwardness would restore confidence in the Organization. The candidature of Mr. Ouédraogo was in effect the candidature of all those who wished to see their productive capacities strengthened to meet the challenges of the global market. What Africa aspired for was a partnership between the industrialized countries and the developing countries and countries in transition, aimed at reducing poverty worldwide and creating better conditions for achieving sustainable development. Mr. Ouédraogo assuredly possessed the experience and qualifications required to lead UNIDO and to translate those aspirations into achievements. Africa, in a spirit of solidarity, had, under a gentleman's agreement concluded at the time of the present Director-General's election in 1997, yielded in favour of the Latin American candidate for a four-year period only.

The public meeting was suspended at 10.45 a.m and called to order again at 12.45 p.m.

3. **The PRESIDENT** invited the Board to consider the following draft decision:

"The Industrial Development Board, acting in accordance with Article 11.2 of the Constitution, decides to recommend to the General Conference the appointment of Mr. Carlos Alfredo Magariños as Director-General of UNIDO for a period of four years from 8 December 2001 or until the Director-General appointed at the eleventh regular session of the General Conference assumes office, whichever is later."

4. *The draft decision was adopted.*

5. **The PRESIDENT** offered his congratulations to the successful candidate and submitted to the Board the draft contract establishing the terms and conditions of appointment of the Director-General, contained in the annex to document IDB.24/14. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board was in agreement with the terms of the draft contract and wished to recommend it to the General Conference for approval.

6. *It was so decided.*

7. **Mr. FIGUEROA** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of GRULAC, thanked the President for the professional manner in which he had conducted the election. He also wished to thank those members of the Board who had supported his Group's candidate.

8. **Mr. SHOUKRY** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, congratulated Mr. Magariños on his election as the Board's candidate. The result of the election had demonstrated the Board's recognition of the Director-General's achievements during his first term, particularly his implementation of reforms.

9. **Mr. SAVANE** (Observer for Senegal) said that, as Chairman of the Bureau of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, he wished to congratulate the Director-General on his election. He also wished to thank those who had supported Mr. Ouédraogo. In putting forward a candidate for the election, the African Group had wished to express its will to industrialize. He trusted that the Director-General would take due account of the concerns that had been expressed by African States with regard to the work of UNIDO. The results of the Organization's efforts, particularly with respect to the mobilization of funds, should be much

more significant than they had been in recent years. Finally, it was essential that UNIDO should give priority to the industrialization of Africa.

10. **Ms. LINDHOLM** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, congratulated the Director-General on his election. The European Union supported the ongoing reforms in UNIDO and the priorities set out in the 1997 Business Plan. While maintaining its universal character, the Organization should focus on the least developed countries, particularly those in Africa.

11. **Mr. ABE** (Japan) congratulated Mr. Magariños on his election and said that his Government would continue to support the Director-General's efforts to continue the reform process within UNIDO. The Government of Japan was strongly committed to African development, and it would contribute $3 million over the coming years to efforts to combat contagious diseases. The Japanese Government also intended to contribute $15 million to the development of information technologies, which would be paid in instalments over the next few years, and $3.8 million had been earmarked for a programme to assist the highly indebted poor countries. Japan was currently preparing to host the third International Congress for African Development and, in that context, expected close cooperation between the African countries participating in the Congress and UNIDO. The Director-General should continue to attach high priority to Africa, as indicated in the Business Plan.

12. **Mr. YODA** (Burkina Faso) congratulated the Director-General on his election and thanked the African countries for supporting the candidate from Burkina Faso and the election process as a whole. He hoped that the Director-General and the international community had understood the message that African and other countries had tried to send during the election process—namely, that there should be a greater commitment to Africa's industrialization, to its access to world markets and to reducing poverty in sub-Saharan Africa.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.